

CITY OF CANAL FULTON
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

April 27, 2004 – 6:30 PM

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mrs. Cihon called the April 27, 2004 Public Service Committee meeting to order at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall

CALLING OF THE ROLL

Present: Nellie Cihon, Victor Colaianni, Linda Zahirsky and Robert Szanto

CURRENT BUSINESS

Election of Chairman

Mrs. Zahirsky nominates Mrs. Cihon as Chairman of the Public Service Committee. Mr. Szanto seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yes - ALL

Tap-In Fees to Northwest Schools

There was a lengthy discussion regarding tap-in fees – whether to charge inside city, or outside city tap-in rates, which are \$8,000 or \$12,000 (8-inch line) to Northwest Schools (spreadsheet distributed); they will have a 3-inch and 8-inch pipe they are going to be using. Mr. Colaianni stated that the \$8,000 or \$12,000 (amounts on the spreadsheet) is a starting amount for them to consider. He reiterated he did not think the city should charge them the outside fee for the tap-in because you have kids from inside the City going to school there. We set the fees, and this is strictly for the school; it has nothing to do with anybody else going out there. Mrs. Loretto had said that if anybody along the way decides to tap in, it is up to the City to set that fee; we do not have to go by what we are doing to the school. Mr. Szanto stated a fee can not be an arbitrary figure; you have to be able to substantiate a fee as to why you are charging x-number of dollars; the purpose of our tap-in fee is to repay the system (i.e., the investment that the system has put in for that much capacity). Mr. Szanto said the cost includes labor and materials, and that he didn't feel \$8,000 was unrealistic for the school, especially when he looked at how expensive other local governments are. Mr. Colaianni stated Mrs. Loretto said that Bill Dorman had recommended Wenger Excavating be considered strongly, as they have done existing work. He thought it was an issue of looking at the community as a whole, and Northwest Local Schools serves the City of Canal Fulton entirely. Mrs. Zahirsky stated that they also serve Clinton, Wayne County and Summit County. Mr. Colaianni said within the City, though, Northwest is the only school district, and that they don't serve entirety of Clinton because you have Manchester and Norton. Doylestown services as part of Wayne County; he stated our entire municipality lies within Northwest Local Schools. Council has agreed that the amounts are fine, but the way the Ordinance reads that anything above a 2-inch line, it's up to the Committee and Council to set that fee for whoever is tapping in. Mr. Colaianni stated five or seven years down the road, you are going to have other people tapping into this, and at that point in time, you are still going to make up more of the money for the infrastructure. Mr. Colaianni stated with the new high school, he sees more usage because they are going to have a new auditorium. Mr. Szanto said as a token of good will to the school, he would go with the \$8,000 (inside the city) fee; if there are separate lines, we should charge for that tap-in for a separate line. Mr. Colaianni stated basically what we have to consider is what fee to charge them for a 3-inch and an 8-inch line. Mrs. Cihon stated that if they do two 3-inch and one 8-inch; it comes to \$15,200.

Mr. Szanto made a motion that Council approves the rates listed on the tap-in fee dated April 16, 2004 (provided by the City Manager), showing inside and outside tap-in fees for lines between 3-inch and 12-inch for users of the Canal Fulton water system. Mrs. Zahirsky seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yes - ALL

Ms. Szanto made a motion that the Public Service Committee recommends to City Council that the inside tap-in fees rate schedule to applied to the tap-ins that the Northwest School Systems requires. Mr. Colaianne seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yes – 3 No – 1 (Mrs. Zahirsky)

Sidewalks on Locust Street

Mrs. Zahirsky brought the Committee up to date and asked if everyone received the CTI information. She felt that the estimate CTI gave the Committee was without detail. She spoke with Dave Kuntz from CTI to get an idea of how to go about funding this because the concern was hitting the property owners with the entire cost. Mr. Kuntz told her that the actual cost of the cement is going to be around \$70,000. Mrs. Zahirsky stated that where you really start getting in the money is repairing the driveways, patching, etc., and he included part of the swamp (there is a problem there). Mrs. Zahirsky told Mr. Kuntz that one of the concerns is the dip between the (Savings Bank & Trust) bank and DiStefano Insurance. Mr. Kuntz told her he didn't take the sidewalk all the way down there. Mrs. Zahirsky told him the entire purpose behind this was because the people from Echoing Ridge are driving the City to get sidewalks, so they can go downtown; he has to include that section. Currently, the \$250,000 figure is not a good figure. Mr. Kuntz and Mrs. Zahirsky's conversation continued: if they are driving this and it is going to benefit the Senior citizens and the disabled, Mr. Kuntz stated maybe this would be a project that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) would pay for part of that section. Mrs. Zahirsky stated she spoke with Dale Kincaid about her concern that you can't assess a land-owner more than 1/3 of the value of their land for sidewalks, and this is going to get way over the value of that land. So, you can't begin to assess Schalmo or whoever owns that dip for the cost of the sidewalk. Mr. Colaianne asked if we could consider, depending on what the final number is and the number of homes and businesses that are along there, a two-tier system or two-tiered fee to get that done (i.e., one fee for business, one fee for homes). Along either side of Locust from that point down to the area in question (Route 93), you have probably got 40 homes. Mrs. Zahirsky said is if we could pay for half of the cost, or the cost beyond the sidewalk itself, if the City as a whole paid for repairing their driveway, etc., and the actual cement part of their sidewalk would then be borne by the landowner and that there are different ways you can assess that. Mr. Colaianne with the CDBG grants and the reason you were able to get it up Cherry Street was the low-income housing. He said he wasn't sure because people with disabilities are fixed-income (he didn't know if they would consider them low-income), but he knew for sure the apartment side of Echoing Ridge is subsidized; the people who live in the main facilities are mostly Medicare/Medicaid and S.S.I. monies. That would be something to ask Stark Regional Planning or CDBG. He thought they are considered low-income, but the flip side of the coin is going to be Autumn Meadows because those people are not low-income. Mrs. Cihon commented that there are the Seniors there, and she thought their rent starts at \$400 (either that or it goes with their income). She stated it was where the condos start. Mrs. Zahirsky stated the closest to this area and the whole reason that we are doing this is because of Echoing Ridge, and that's why she thinks we can go after the block grant. Mr. Szanto said one thing that is equally important is if you drive out there when the school bus is out there, you have kids standing on Locust Street, and that is dangerous; he didn't know if that was worth any points on a grant application, but just drive out there and look down that street when those kids are out there; it is not a good situation. Mrs. Cihon stated she had a Senior speaking about the sidewalks, and the Senior was against it that lives on Locust Street. She lives by herself, and she knows that homeowners are supposed to keep the sidewalks clear and she can not get out and shovel snow. Mr. Colaianne stated along the way, you have got the Senior Center, and he didn't know if it weighs points with CDBG or not. Mrs. Zahirsky said it was on the other side of the street. Mrs. Cihon asked if we were going to start from Cherry down to the Senior Center on the South side and then cross over and go the North side, or is it just all going to be on one side. Mrs. Zahirsky said it was all going to stay on one side (the north side) because that is where all the people are and you've got an entire allotment back there that is going to use it. Mr. Szanto said there are a lot of reasons why it won't

work, you are either going to have to raise the grade or build a boardwalk or something down around the bank, and he wasn't sure of the elevations, but just keep in the back of your mind what if we were able to get some kind of easement, a right-of-way, and have a sidewalk go down around behind the Schalmo property they are selling, behind Ericcson Drive off Beverly, that it may be too hilly or steep of a grade. Mrs. Zahirsky stated they said you can't have anything more than a 5% grade. Mr. Szanto stated you would almost have to do switch-backs. Mrs. Zahirsky said there were two solutions. If you go with the one that is 5%, you can put a wall and filler in along there or you could do the walkway with a bridge made of polymer that she had given the information on, so we really don't know the cost of that section yet or what funding we can get. Mr. Colaianne said he knew somebody who would quickly find out a ballpark figure, although the assessments are going to be totally different. Mrs. Zahirsky stated we are not near to where we would be ready for a public meeting because of so many questions and the first thing they will ask is, "How much is it going to cost?" She asked if we are going to assess on the whole amount or is the City going to pay part of it. She stated that Barberton gives grants that when they put in the sidewalk area, the City pays for half and the homeowner pays for half. We should not give it to them free and tell them the City will pay for it all. Mr. Colaianne said that if you can narrow it down to within \$50,000 to \$100,000 after possible grants, can CDBG give us money for it. Mrs. Zahirsky stated that we should go after this grant and the American Association of People with Disabilities grant. Mr. Colaianne had called them and faxed them information, and was told they did not give away all of their grants this year. He said usually the larger cities are the ones that go; it's based on populations. He stated that on July 1, they would be mailing out the \$75,000 grant package. Mr. Szanto asked if we have an estimate of the engineering or if the engineering was done; he stated from Riverview just down to Cherry Street was \$27,000 because it was \$20,000 for engineering. "You had grades and a real mess there, and we are going to run into several places out here that are going to be that way." Mrs. Zahirsky said the State paid it all. Mr. Szanto said that because it was along State Route 93, we were allowed to use our gas tax money; we couldn't do that out there because that is a County road. It was a pretty broad interpretation, and it was a lot of money for such a short distance. Mrs. Zahirsky thinks that this was just considered the preliminary design phase that we paid \$3,000. She had Barberton's City Ordinance established the City's contribution to the sidewalk replacement and fill-in program and declaring an emergency. Mr. Szanto stated that we have \$20,000 in the preliminary design phase, design and bidding phase (engineering); we would be responsible for construction and inspection. What is confusing to Mrs. Zahirsky, Mr. Kuntz's report says "down to Beverly," and she will talk to him again. Mr. Szanto stated that when he looks at \$216,000, he is saying add another \$84,000 to that and round it up to \$300,000 because he has worked with engineering and estimates for the past three years. Mr. Colaianne stated that he believed the ballpark figure is going to be between \$300,000 and \$400,000 by the time you get everything done. Mr. Szanto said that if the economy is not that good - look at the numbers we got on the waterline - coming in lower than expected, but then the economy will affect us and our ability to collect money to pay for this if we are going to fund it out of the General Fund. Mr. Colaianne hoped that by at least a year from now, we would be in a position to know what it is going to cost, as well as the assessment, if there is going to be any - how much that is going to be - versus if we are going to be able to use CDBG in this type of grant. Mrs. Zahirsky is going to get the information from Dale Kincaid, as he has a folder on sidewalks and he is going to put together something on the different ways that you can assess. Mrs. Zahirsky is going to speak with Dave Kuntz and see if he can give us a firmer figure from the top of the hill to Beverly. Mr. Colaianne will prior to the next Council meeting, when the announcements from AAPD were going to be because the deadline is February 1, 2005. Mr. Szanto is going to call about the CDBG. Mr. Szanto is going to ask how a project like this might qualify, what parameters, etc. Mr. Colaianne stated that if we build it the people on Locust are going to change their tune, at least some of them will (the Seniors won't). We will set up a meeting after getting the information gathered.

Mrs. Zahirsky made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Cihon seconded the motion.

Nellie Cihon, Chair